

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 29, 2004. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination, and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive.

The title has been amended to read as follows:

--PRINTING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR NO-MARGIN  
PRINTING--.

Applicant respectfully submits that the title, as amended, is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The Office Action objected to the specification because of the informalities noted in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

Applicant has amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicant believes that the objection has been obviated, and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Figures 1-5 have been amended to add the notation "Prior Art" as required.

It is believed the objection to Figures 1-5 has been remedied.

Figure 6 has been amended to add the textual label "Printing Apparatus" as required by the Office Action. It is believed that the objection to Figure 6 has been remedied.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,591,076 (*Connors*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that

these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a printing apparatus. The apparatus includes printing means and output means. The printing means performs no-margin printing in accordance with an inputted print image having an image being beyond the perimeter of a sheet to be printed. The output means divides, on the basis of an instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and print these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to the sheet to be printed such that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet, and then outputs these pieces of the print image to the printing means. That is, the features of Claim 1 allow for “poster” printing.

Among other important features of Claim 1 are performing no-margin printing in accordance with an inputted print image having an image being beyond the perimeter of a sheet to be printed and dividing, on the basis of an instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and print these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to the sheet to be printed such that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet.

*Connors* relates to image printing devices that generate multiple page images. *Connors* discusses a print image having an area larger than the area of a sheet (215) being inputted to a printing device (108). However, printing device 108 is not able to perform no-margin printing of multiple image 308 because the overlap images of each print image are included only on an adjacent area (column 9, lines 22-32). Further, as shown in Figures 5A and 5B, reference numerals 354 and 356 depict margin border line image data, which delimits

data in the margin such as location indicia image data. That is, to generate the multiple page image (308) as a poster image, the location indicia image data should be deleted from the multiple page image (308). However, nothing has been found in *Connors* that would teach or suggest performing no-margin printing in accordance with an inputted print image having an image being beyond the perimeter of a sheet to be printed and dividing, on the basis of an instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and print these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to the sheet to be printed such that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Connors*.

Independent Claims 8 and 15 are method and computer program product claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Appln. No. 10/618,666  
Amend. Dated: 4/29/04  
Reply to Office Action of 1/29/04  
Annotated Sheet

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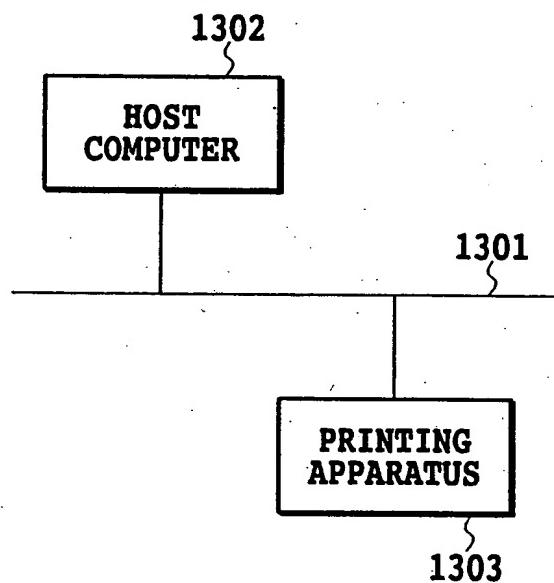


FIG.1  
PRIOR ART

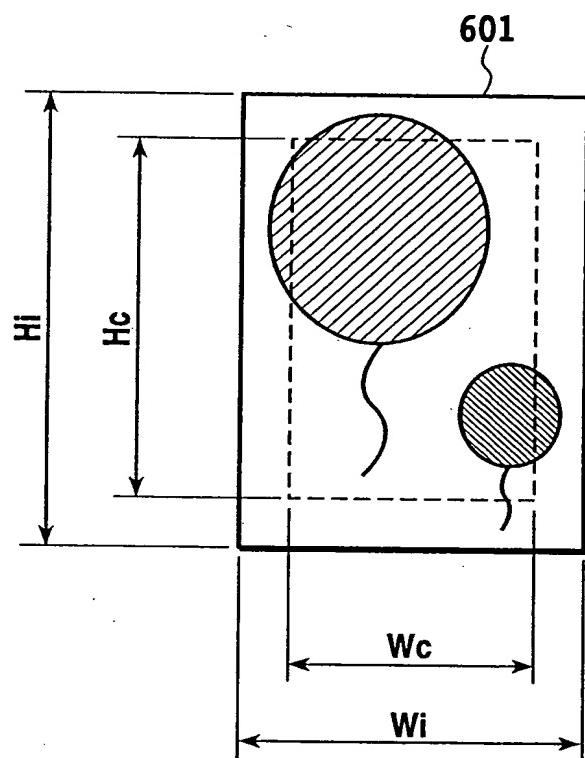
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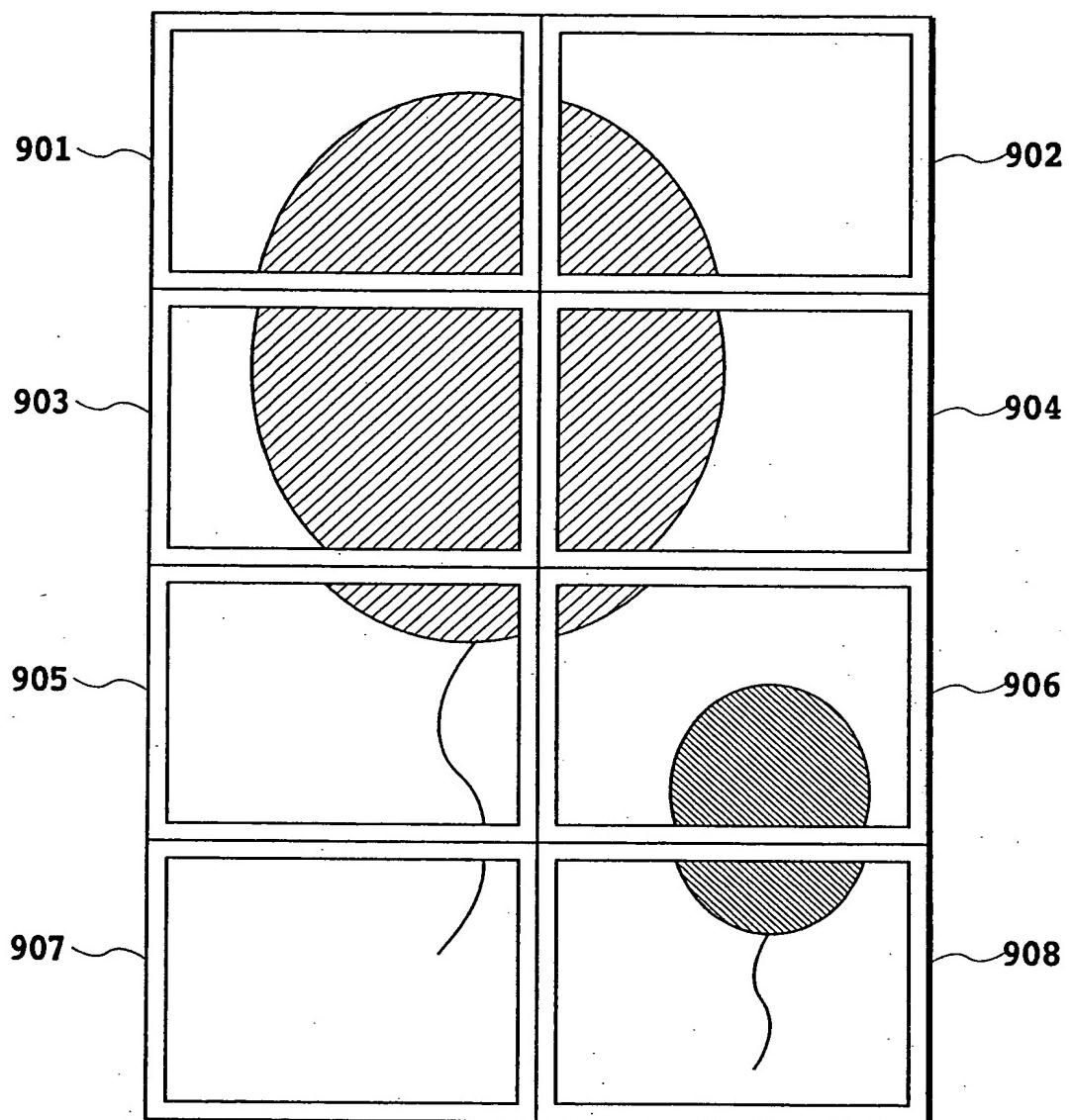


**FIG.2**

**PRIOR ART**

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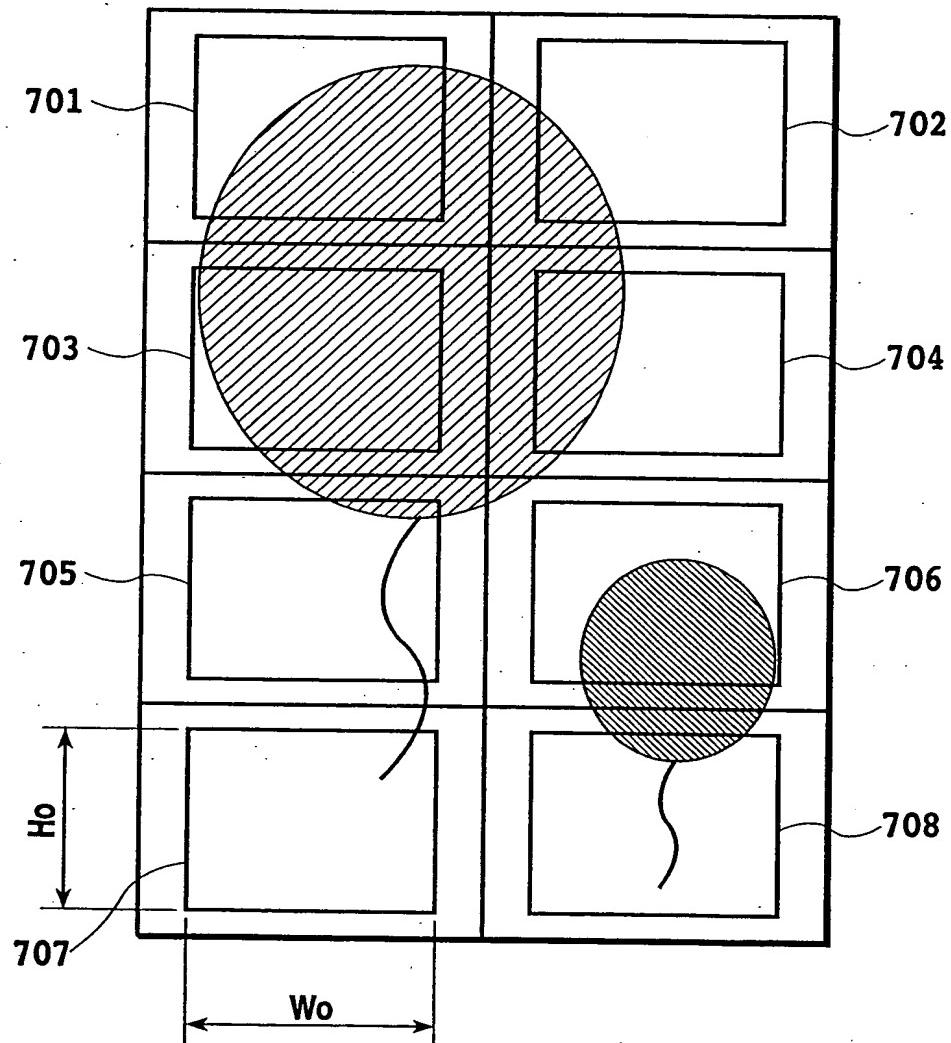
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**FIG.3**  
**PRIOR ART**

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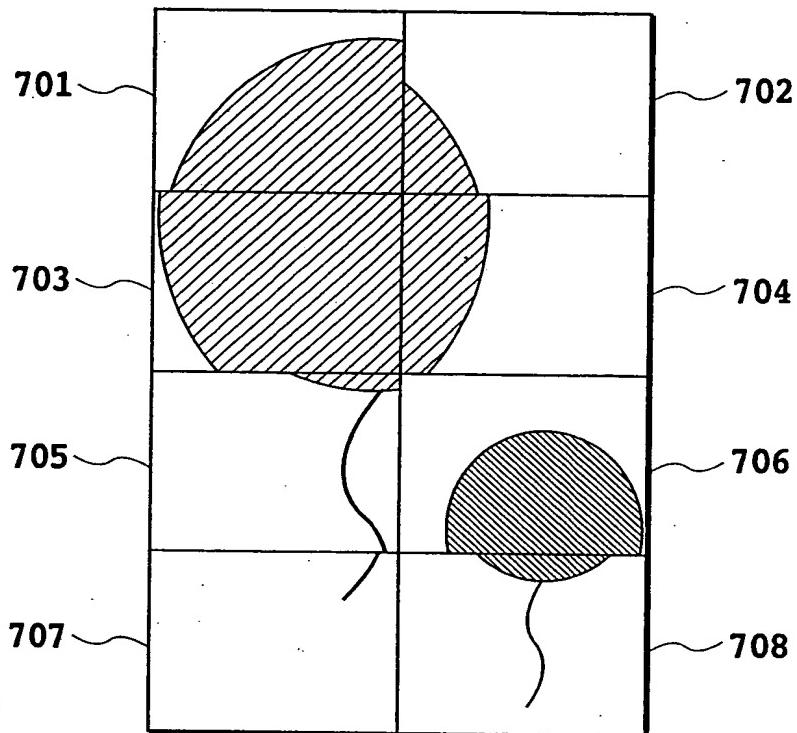
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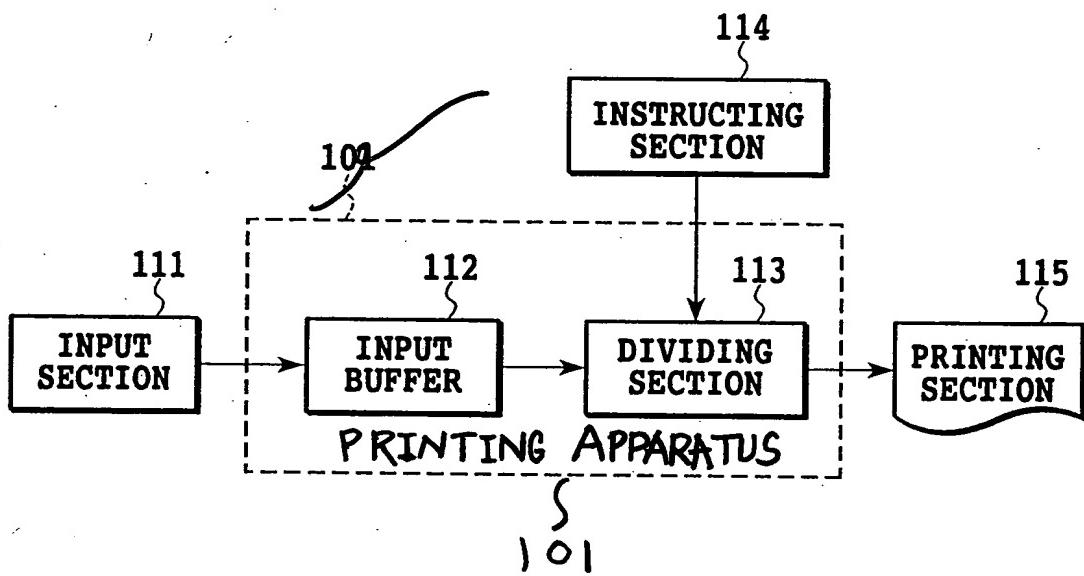
**FIG.4**  
**PRIOR ART**

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**FIG.5**  
**PRIOR ART**

**6/14****FIG.6**